5

10

15

20

The Claims

- 1. A fingerprint identification system comprising:
 - a) a portable fingerprint scanner which can be hand carried to various locations for obtaining fingerprint images and for storing the images obtained in the scanner; and
 - b) at least one docking station at a location spaced from the location where fingerprint images are obtained, the docking station being in the form of a receptacle for receiving the scanner, the fingerprint images being downloaded from the scanner when the scanner is received in the docking system.
- 2. A system according to claim 1, further including a computer operatively connected to the docking station for processing fingerprint images downloaded from the scanner.
- 3. A system according to claim 2, wherein diagnostic routines are provided by the computer for operation on the scanner while in the docking station.
- 4. A system according to claim 1, wherein the scanner is battery operated and wherein the docking station is provided with a voltage source for recharging the scanner battery when in the docking station.
- 30 5. A system according to claim 1, wherein the scanner is an ultrasonic fingerprint scanner.
 - 6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the scanner has barcode scanning capability.

7. A system according to claim 1, wherein the docking station is located in a law enforcement vehicle and wherein the scanner is adapted to be carried by a law enforcement officer.

5

- 8. A system according to claim 7, wherein the scanner is provided with an external magnetic component for attachment to a vehicle during use in obtaining images.
- 9. A system according to claim 1, wherein the scanner has an infrared data link for wireless transmission of fingerprint images while received in the docking station.
- 10. A fingerprint identification and security system comprising:
 - a) a portable fingerprint scanner which can be carried on a person and which includes a time of day clock and a port for data communication to and from the scanner;

20

25

b) a plurality of docking stations at locations where inspections are to be performed, each of the docking stations being in the form of a receptacle for receiving the scanner, each docking station having a microprocessor and a unique code identification, there being bidirectional data communication between the docking station and the scanner received therein; and

30

c) a supervisory docking station in the form of a receptacle for receiving the scanner for downloading fingerprint images, times of day and docking station identifications from the scanner received therein; and whereby when a security person makes a round when he reaches each inspection location he operates the scanner to image his fingerprint and then inserts the scanner into the docking station at that location and a record is made of the time of day, unique identification of the docking station and fingerprint image of the security person which is stored in the scanner and then at the end of the round the security person inserts the scanner into the supervisory docking station which downloads the fingerprint images and times of day correlated with the docking station identification codes.

15

20

11. A system according to claim 10, further included a computer operatively associated with the supervisory docking station for processing the downloaded fingerprint images, times of day and docking station identification codes.